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TAGS: ECON UR

SUBJ: 1975 FIRST QUARTER PLAN RESULTS FOR SOVIET INDUSTRY

REF: MOSCOW 18780, 12/19/74

1. WEEKEND CENTRAL PRESS CARRIED CENTRAL STATISTICAL
ADMINISTRATION (CSA) REPORT ON FIRST QUARTER PLAN RESULTS
IN INDUSTRY. ACCORDING TO CSA FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE
RESULTED IN PLAN OVERFULFILLMENT, MEASURED BY DISBURSAL
INTO ECONOMY (REALIZATSIYA) OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND
PRODUCTION OF "MAJORITY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TYPES OF
COMMODITIES." OUTPUT GREW BY 7.5 PERCENT COMPARED WITH
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1974 FIRST QUARTER WHEREAS LABOR PRODUCTIVITY ROSE BY SIX

PERCENT OVER COMPARABLE 1974 PERIOD.

2. FOLLOWING SELECTED FIRST QUARTER PRODUCTION STATISTICS,
TOGETHER WITH PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER COMPARABLE 1974
PERIOD, ARE TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EMASSY'S UNDER-
STANDING WITH OFFICE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH:
ELECTRICAL ENERGY: 272 BILLION KILOWATT HOURS; 106
OIL (INCLUDING GAS CONDENSATE): 118 MILLION TONS; 107
GAS: 71.3 BILLION CUBIC METERS; 111
COAL: 177 MILLION TONS; 102
(COKING COAL CATEGORY HAS BEEN OMITTED FROM PUBLISHED
STATISTICS)
PIG IRON: 25.4 MILLION TONS; 103
STEEL: 34.7 MILLION TONS; 104
ROLLED METAL: 28.4 MILLION TONS; 105
(OF WHICH FINISHED METAL: 24.4 MILLION TONS; 103)
MINERAL FERTILIZERS (IN CONVENTIONAL UNITS): 21.8 MILLION TONS; 114
PLASTICS AND SYNTHETIC RESINS: 688 THOUSAND TONS; 112
CHEMICAL FIBERS: 236 THOUSAND TONS; 106
METAL-CUTTING MACHINE TOOLS: 55.1 THOUSAND UNITS; 103
(364 MILLION RUBLES: 111)
FORGE-PRESS MACHINES: 12.6 THOUSAND UNITS; 107
(93.5 MILLION RUBLES; 106)
INSTRUMENTS, MEANS OF AUTOMATION AND RELATED SPARE
PARTS: 1,017 MILLION RUBLES; 112
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND RELATED SPARE PARTS: 624
MILLION RUBLES; 139
OIL APPARATUS: 43.2 THOUSAND TONS; 99.2
CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS: 161 MILLION RUBLES;
108
MAINLINE RAIL FREIGHT CARS: 17.7 THOUSAND UNITS; 98
AUTOMOBILES--TOTAL: 486 THOUSAND UNITS; 109
OF WHICH: TRUCKS: 173 THOUSAND UNITS; 106
PASSENGER CARS: 296 THOUSAND UNITS; 111
BUSES: (NOT LISTED, BUT BY EXTRAPOLATION:
17 THOUSAND UNITS; 115)
TRACTORS: 138 THOUSAND UNITS; 105
AGRICULTURAL MACHINES: 905 MILLION RUBLES; 110
GRAIN-HARVESTING COMBINES; 23.6 THOUSAND UNITS; 115
PAPER: 1.3 MILLION TONS; 103
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CEMENT: 29.4 MILLION TONS; 107
TEXTILES: 2,499 MILLION SQUARE METERS; 101
LEATHER FOOTWEAR: 178 MILLION PAIRS; 103
MEAT (FROM STATE RESOURCES): 2.2 MILLION TONS; 110
BUTTER (FROM STATE RESOURCES): 185 THOUSAND TONS; 89
CANNED FOODS: 2.4 BILLION CANS; 105
TELEVISION SETS: 1.7 MILLION UNITS; 108
REFRIGERATORS: 1.4 MILLION UNITS; 105

WASHING MACHINES: 799 THOUSAND UNITS; 109
FURNITURE: 1,035 MILLION RUBLES; 109

3. FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS REVEAL NUMEROUS INSTANCES--
SOME MAJOR--WHERE PRODUCTION FELL SHORT OF LEVEL ATTAINED DURING
COMPARABLE 1974 PERIOD. IN ADDITION TO BUTTER, CITED ABOVE,
THESE INCLUDE (SHORTFALLS IN PARENTHESES):
SELF-PROPELLED EXCAVATION MACHINERY (13 THOUSAND UNITS);
FLAX TEXTILES (5 MILLION SQUARE METERS);
OUTER KNITWEAR (1.3 MILLION PEICES);
VEGETABLE OILS (16.9 THOUSAND TONS);
VACUUM CLEANERS (36.4 THOUSAND UNITS); AND
COAL CLEANING COMBINES (9 THOUSAND UNITS).
CSA ARTICLE NOTES IN ADDITION THAT VARIOUS INDUSTRIES,
WHERE 1975 FIRST QUARTER OUTPUT WAS WELL ABOVE THAT FOR
COMPARABLE 1974 PERIOD, NEVERTHELESS FAILED TO ACHIEVE PLAN
TARGETS FOR PRODUCTION. THESE COMMODITIES INCLUDE SUCH
CHRONIC LAGGARDS AS SULFURIC ACID, AS WELL AS LAUNDRY
DETERGENTS, VARIOUS TYPES OF TEXTILES, LEATHER FOOTWEAR,
AND "SEVERAL OTHER TYPES OF PRODUCTS."

4. OVERALL, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR QUARTER ROSE BY
7.5 PERCENT, WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO SIGNAL REASONABLE START TO
YERA, SINCE TOTAL 1975 INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION TARGET SET LAST
DECEMBER WAS 6.7 PERCENT. (TARGET FOR YEAR WITHIN FIVE YEAR
PLAN WAS 8.8 PERCENT.) HOWEVER, FOR QUARTER CONSUMER-ORIENTED
SECTOR'S GROWTH RATES RELATIVE TO COMPARABLE 1974 PERIOD WERE
DISTURBINGLY LOW, AS FOLLOWS:
LIGHT INDUSTRY - 6 PERCENT
FOOD INDUSTRY - 2 PERCENT
MEAT AND DAIRY INDUSTRY - 6 PERCENT
FISH INDUSTRY - 4 PERCENT

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PLAN DOCUMENT FOR 1975 PUBLISHED LAST DECEMBER CALLED FOR
OVERALL 6 PERCENT GROWTH IN GROUP B SECTOR FOR YEAR (AS
OPPOSED TO 9.4 PERCENT GROWTH FOR 1975 SET WITHIN FYP).
WHILE CSA PUBLISHED FIGURES MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE
PROGRESS ACHIEVED FOR GROUP B AS WHOLE FOR FIRST QUARTER,
IT IS APPARENT THAT CONSUMER AREAS ARE LAGGING BEHIND
THEIR PLANNED GROWTH AS "CONCLUSIVE YEAR" OF FYP FINISHES FIRST
QUARTER. PARTICULARLY LOW GROWTH REGISTERED THROUGHOUT
FOOD SECTOR (WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF MEAT, OUTPUT OF
WHICH GROWING AT HIGH RATE BUT FROM LOW BASE). WITHIN
OVERALL GROWTH RATE OF 6 PERCENT FOR QUARTER IN LIGHT
INDUSTRY, TOTAL TEXTILE OUTPUT UP BY MEAGER ONE PERCENT,
SHOES BY THREE PERCENT.

5. FINALLY, EMBASSY WOULD NOTE SEVERAL IMPORTANT SECTORS

WHERE FIRST QUARTER OUTPUT, IF CONTINUED FOR ENTIRE YEAR
AT SAME LEVEL, WOULD RESULT IN SHORTFALLS EVEN FROM
REDUCED TARGETS SET LAST DECEMBER. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:
OIL (118 MILLION TONS FOR QUARTER VERSUS GOAL FOR YEAR OF 489.4
MILLION TONS); STEEL (34.7 MILLION TONS VERSUS 142 MILLION
TONS); MINERAL FERTILIZERS (21.8 MILLION TONS VERSUS 90
MILLION TONS); PLASTICS (688 THOUSAND TONS VERSUS 2.8 MILLION
TONS); CEMENT (29.4 MILLION TONS VERSUS 122 MILLION TONS);
FABRICS (2.49 BILLION SQUARE METERS VERSUS 10.2 BILLION
SQUARE METERS); AND POSSIBLY NATURAL GAS (71.3 BILLION
CUBIC METERS VERSUS "OVER" 285 BILLION CUBIC METERS).

6. IN SHORT, FIRST QUARTER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS
CONTAIN NO SURPRISES. GENERALLY LETHARGIC OVERALL PERFORMANCE--
AND NOTABLY SUB-PAR OUTPUT IN CONSUMER AREAS--CAN GIVE NO
CAUSE FOR REJOICING TO SOVIET ECONOMIC MANAGERS AND
DECISION-MAKERS, MUCH LESS TO LONG-SUFFERING MAN IN THE
STREET.
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